



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

HAPPY GRANGE MONTH!

April 24, 2020

DON'T LET THE CONNECTION GO COLD

As we are not permitted to meet, we ask you to share these newsletters by forwarding this or printing and mailing to your Grange friends

Embracing alternatives to physical meetings can stave off entropy

By Betsy Huber, National President

As we complete the sixth week of isolation and social distancing, how are you doing? How has your life changed? Or more importantly, how has your outlook on life or your priorities changed? Are you looking back at all the many activities you used to do, the frantic rush from work or school to home to sports to clubs to shopping, even to Grange events, and wondering if they were worth your time?

As you are thinking these thoughts, I hope that you're feeling that Grange was one of the important parts of your life and you will continue your involvement in person when we are finally released. If you have doubts, I hope you will think of what you can do to make your Grange time more valuable—to you and to your family and community. Do you just meet, greet, and eat? Or is there a purpose to your meeting? In these difficult times I'm sure you can find a more meaningful purpose for your Grange, even if you can't meet together in person. This is why I strongly encourage you to hold virtual Grange meetings during this time—so you can plan a new purpose, or new ways of carrying out your purpose in the future.

I came across a word last week—**entropy**, the [inevitable](#) and [steady](#) deterioration of any system or society; the tendency for all things to go from order towards [disorder](#). This is what I fear for our Community Granges in this time of isolation. If your Grange goes for two months, three months, or who-knows-how-long without connection, will it slide into entropy and disappear? Please don't allow this to happen to you!

The National Grange allows and encourages Granges to meet by phone, Zoom, Skype, Go To Meeting, or any of the many virtual methods available. Don't allow a virus to be the death of your Grange!

You don't need to be the Master to initiate a virtual meeting procedure. Any youth or grandchild can set up the mechanics and offer to host. They may get in the habit of attending the meetings and become involved in your Grange. My Grange has been including members in meetings by conference call or Zoom for the last four months—yes, even before the virus—and we have had attendance from members we haven't seen in many years. Those who have moved away, are attending college, or just lost contact with us and are now back. We've had great discussions and it really is a wonderful way to keep in touch. Why not give it a try next week! We want to use this crisis to make our Grange grow, not go into entropy.



PEOPLE, PRIDE AND PROGRESS: 125 Year History of the Grange

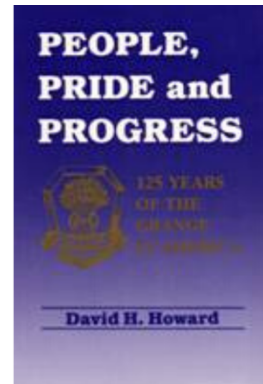
Written by David H. Howard

Was \$12.

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Time to build skills for the future

By Joe Stefenoni, Membership and Leadership Development Director

Quarantine log – day... I’ve lost count.

As we all are looking for different activities to occupy our spare time, this is a perfect opportunity to utilize your quarantine/shelter-in-place/social distance to read a new book, learn something new and/or develop a new skill. While doing all of these, there can be a focus on the Grange as well.

If learning more about the history of the Grange’s legislative, civil and social accomplishments is your desire, most of the literature written on the history of the Grange organization can now be found digitally. The National Grange has republished a number of these volumes as ebooks on the Amazon Kindle store, others can be found on Google Books (books.google.com) and some can be purchased directly from the Grange Supply Store. From Oliver Hudson Kelley’s *Origins and Progress of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry* published in 1875 to *People, Pride and Progress* published in 1992 by David H. Howard, the history of our organization is a rich fabric that is often intertwined with the progress of our nation. A deeper understanding of the journey our Grange has taken over 152 years builds an appreciation for our past and a better vision for our future.

This is also a time to learn and study our ritual. If you have access to a Grange Manual, pull it off the bookshelf and read through the impressive ceremonies contained within; from the opening and closing ceremonies to the degree work to the Installation of Officers all are filled with teachings that are relevant. When we are again able to meet together, offer to lead a discussion or demonstration on the piece of ritual you learned or studied. The Unwritten Work is also filled with both historical and relevant instructions about some of the things we do in our Grange meetings or as part of our cultural fabric as an organization. After you learn parts (or all) of the Unwritten Work, you can take the opportunity to participate in the Grange Ritual contest at National Grange Convention this November.

Most importantly, this is a prime time to think about your Grange journey and learn about the various leadership opportunities that are available. What is your next step? What responsibilities do you want to have in Grange leadership? What officer roles would you like to fill, and what does it take to be successful? Do you want to become a State Grange Deputy or start organizing Subordinate/Community Granges? The National Grange has a number of resources available including the “Grange Resource Binder” and handbooks for Subordinate/Community Grange Masters, Secretaries and Treasurers and State Grange Deputies. The National Grange

Membership department is also looking for regional assistants across the country to help with membership development and leadership training. For more information about this, email membership@nationalgrange.org.

For all Grange members I encourage you to take this time to learn something new, think about how it can apply to your life, your Grange journey, or the future of the Grange. This could be the jumping-off point for your next great adventure of service and leadership.

FCC Chairman Pai joins Grange live web-stream, talks broadband and more

By National Grange Communications & Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios

On Thursday, April 23, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai joined the National Grange's daily livestream, Cultivating Connections. Pai talked about rural broadband and other related issues. He also took questions from the audience who joined the conversation by comments and text.

In it, Pai said the contributions of the Grange on the issues related to rural broadband and Lifeline have been immensely useful and shared his pleasure to have National Grange President Betsy Huber as a member of the FCC's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee and the Precision Ag Taskforce.

The entire 1-hour interview can be found by going to: <https://youtu.be/itf4EhEaHxk>

Monthly Dutch oven recipes, travel attractions debut on GrangeRevival.com

Those getting cabin fever and looking forward to their next adventure are encouraged to check out grangerevival.com. The site now offers two monthly features – a Dutch oven recipe, including a primer for those unfamiliar with the rustic camp-style cooking option, and roadside attraction ideas near or on the way to Sturgis, South Dakota, the site of the 2021 Grange Revival.

The new features have been created by Chris Hamp, National Lecturer, and her husband, Duane. The couple are well-known for their zest for adventure and fun photos in various places with oddities found on trips.

The Hamps hope that the tips and ideas will lead others to consider how they can pack as much fun into their trip to Days End Campgrounds in July 2021 as possible.

DUTCH OVEN DELIGHTS

by Chris & Duane Hamp



MOUNTAIN MAN BREAKFAST

TOOLS

- 12" Dutch oven
- Liner
- 24 briquettes (14 top, 10 bottom)
- Metal tongs to move briquettes and serving utensils

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 lb. bacon, cut into small pieces or crumbled sausage
- Medium onion, chopped
- 32 oz. bag of shredded hash browns
- 12 eggs, beaten
- 1 - 1 1/2 c. grated cheddar or pepperjack cheese
- Salsa, ketchup and/or sour cream, optional

TIME

- Prep: 5 min
- Cook: 35-45 min

DIRECTIONS

Preheat Dutch oven over bottom briquettes.

Add liner and brown bacon, cut into small pieces (ground sausage also works well). Remove bacon/sausage and drain on a paper towel. Add onion to the grease and cook until clear. Remove onions and drain. Wipe excess grease out of the lined Dutch oven and place back over hot briquettes.

Stir in hash brown potatoes (we like shredded best but you can choose other varieties) and cook until golden brown, then mix the bacon/sausage and onion back in.

Whisk eggs and pour into Dutch oven, cover with lid (add briquettes to top) and cook until eggs are almost solid.

When eggs are almost solid sprinkle cheese and continue cooking until eggs are set and cheese melts.

Serve with your favorite salsa (or ketchup) and sour cream.

grangerevival.com
facebook.com/grangerevival

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LAST CALL

APPLY FOR A DEAF AWARENESS GRANT



DEADLINE: MAY 1

AWARDS NOW UP TO \$1,000!



All details and application available at grangefoundation.org/deaf

Foundation announces grants open for all Granges serving during COVID

By National Grange Foundation Board Chairwoman Joan C. Smith

I am so proud to call myself a Granger as I am sure you all are also. What awesome and amazing activities have been taken on and achieved by the Grangers and Granges across America in this time of need. You are providing support to your communities, neighbors, first responders, medical teams, grocery/pharmacy, postal, sanitation, teachers, custodians, truck drivers etc. personnel with food, deliveries, sharing a little joy with a card or phone call, providing PPE, a smile and a wave and so much more than listed here. The Grange is valuable and necessary more than ever and that relevancy will continue in your communities when this crisis is over.

Your National Grange Foundation Board wants to say thank you to ten (10) Granges (chartered Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, State) with a \$100 Grant drawing for the great work you have been doing. First, thanks to all who have purchased one of our “we’re in this together” t-shirt for yourself, or your neighbor or a community associate. The sale of these shirts is allowing the Foundation to provide these grants. Order yours today at: inthistogethershirt.weebly.com
CONTINUE TO PURCHASE THE SHIRTS



At our April Foundation Board meeting, we voted to receive applications from chartered Granges, Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, State for EACH project completed in support of COVID-19. Submissions must be received by June 5.

We know every Grange can do SOMETHING at this time. To level the playing field, we are asking Granges to submit a short form/report and you will be entered into a drawing, which will be held at our June 9 Board meeting. Ten (10) submissions/Grange names will be pulled and each will receive \$100 as a grant from the Foundation. We are committed to giving back to members who are giving back so much to their communities.

Submissions may be made online or by mail. Online, the form can be found at bit.ly/gfgrant20web. Forms may be submitted by any chartered Junior, Subordinate, Pomona or State Grange, but **SHOULD NOT** cover the work of another Grange. If multiple Granges partner on a project, only one form should be submitted per project and the Granges should determine to whom the check should be made and the fair distribution of the funds, should that project be pulled as a winning submission.

MEMBER BENEFIT: Supplemental Health Benefit Policy

AFLAC – Supplemental Health Benefits are available to National Grange members, the member's spouse and the member's dependent children. These supplemental benefit policies pay **CASH** directly to the members for members to use as they see fit.

Members will never receive a 1099 or be taxed in any way on the cash benefits paid from these policies. Cash benefits are paid if Grange members (policy holders) have an **accident** and utilize the services of a hospital emergency room or urgent care center, **contract internal cancer**, experience a **heart attack/stroke**, need **major organ transplants**, utilize certain services of their **dentist** and more.

Please go to www.aflac.com/nationalgrange or call Theon Karabatsos at 561-398-1204 or email theon_karabatsos@us.aflac.com



Item #P-HERO1
\$2.50 each for 1 to 49.
\$1.00 each for 50 or more.

New Lapel Pins! Show thanks to our front-line heroes.

They risk and continue to risk their lives everyday to help save lives and offer a continuation of essential supply chains.

Available for shipment approximately April 28th.

5% of sales will be given to National Grange.

Size: 1.25" wide.

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Item #P-HERO2
\$2.50 each for 1 to 49.
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ARE YOU A JUNIOR AT HEART?

WE'RE INVITING YOU TO BECOME A JUNIOR AGAIN BY TAKING PART IN OUR CONTESTS

The Junior at Heart division allows you to enter our contests and help support the Junior program you love. Submit an original piece created within the last year to our creative art, handicraft, creative writing or mini scrapbook divisions. (No more than one entry per person, per division, please.)

Entry fee may be sent by check or money order made out to Grange Foundation along with entries postmarked by Oct. 30 2020 or submitted in person at National Convention by 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17 to the Junior Director.

FIND ALL CONTEST INFORMATION AT NATIONALJUNIORGRANGE.ORG



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